

shall have a purity of heart that shall see God and a golden life that shall shine and shine above the stars.

"And then?—Then when the roses
Were ripe, they went to seed.
And then?—Was seen a white scar
Where once a wound did bleed.

And then?—After a little,
Hope found she might not stay.
And then?—Then as the year waned
The swallows flew away.

And then?—They laid the hero
Among forgotten men
Low in the lone God's acre,
Beneath a stone.—And then?"

"ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE LIQUOR PROBLEM"

J. L. GILLIN

The above heading is the subject of the U. S. Commissioner of Labor for 1897-98. The whole report is interesting, in that the cold facts are shown and the real condition of the liquor traffic in its financial bearings is shown. It is an important document because it cannot be charged that it is either partisan or fanatical.

I wish to present a few facts from this report for our mutual instruction. The number of establishments engaged in manufacture of distilled liquors in 1880 was 844; in 1890, 440; of fermented liquors in 1880, 2191; in 1890, 1248. Thus a decrease in the number of establishments is shown. But the capital invested is greater in 1890 than in 1880, also the total wages paid and the value of products. This simply shows the concentration of capital which is taking place in all industries. One other thing shown is that while in the case of vinous and distilled liquors the cost of materials has decreased in these years, the value of the products has increased very much. A comparison of the years 1880 and 1890, showing the growth of the manufacture of liquors of all kinds is as follows: Establishments in 1880, 3152; in 1890, 1924. Capital in 1880, \$118,937,729; in 1890, \$269,270,249. Average employees, in 1880, 33,689; in 1890, 41,425. Total wages, in 1880, \$15,078,579; in 1890, \$31,675,166. Cost of materials in 1880, \$85,921,374; in 1890, \$80,230,532. Value of products in 1880, \$144,291,241; in 1890, \$289,775,639. Value of products is more than double, while cost of materials over five million dollars less. Perhaps this explains the rise in price of liquors. Deducting the cost of materials and total wages from value of product, we have left a clear profit in the manufacture of these liquors of \$177,866,941, or profit of 66 plus per cent. on the capital invested. Surely not a bad rate of interest on the money! Or deducting besides this, miscellaneous expenses in which among other items is interest on cash invested we have a net gain of 24 per cent. Not bad either!

A total of 58,949,480 bushels of grain was consumed in the manufacture of liquors during the year ending June 30, '96. How many hungry mouths this would feed if not diverted to these channels of ruin! In 1896, 93

per cent of the corn produced by this country was consumed by the manufacturers of liquor; 11.27 per cent. of the rye, and 40.44 per cent. of the barley. And of 37,751,533 lbs. of hops consumed in this country, 34,898,930 lbs. were consumed in the manufacture of liquors.

THE CONSUMPTION OF LIQUORS

From 1840 to 1896 in the United States the consumption of all liquors and wines increased from 4.17 gallons to 16.42 gallons per capita.

No wonder our manhood is deteriorating! A decrease in the per capita consumption of wines and distilled spirits is shown between these years, but a corresponding rapid increase in the consumption of malt liquors. We are rapidly becoming a nation of beer drinkers. These few facts are taken from the first three chapters. Of the rest of the report I may find time to write later. But do not these facts present to us an alarming condition as to the enormous growth of the traffic, of the increase of the drink habit and point a warning finger to the future of our instillations of government, and of church? Truly, this is a monstrous thing which consumes in the manufacture of deadly poison so large a part of some of our best cereals and fruits.

A SERMON

PERRY CLAPPER

Text:—Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee. Isa 26:3.

Peace is the great essential to true happiness and enjoyment. It is a condition of the soul and is not dependent on or necessarily influenced by environment. It is not the state that the artist had in mind when he painted the stagnant lake in the secluded valley; but it is the state represented by that artist of greater genius who painted the bird snugly nestled upon the bough just above the roaring waterfall.

Peace is a condition that can exist in the hovel of poverty as well as in the palace of wealth; in adversity as well as in prosperity; amid the turmoil of active life as well as in the secluded retreat of the hermit. Peasants have enjoyed it while kings sought it in vain; Daniel possessed it and calmly slept in the lion's den while Darius tossed upon the downy couch of the royal palace.

Peace is the possible possession of every living soul and yet how few there are who enjoy it. It is the legacy that Christ has left to all His believing children and yet there are thousands who fail to claim it.

Why is it that so many people, Christians as well as non Christians, do not enjoy peace? Is it because they do not desire it? No. It is because they are ignorant of the conditions that will bring peace or because they are unwilling to fulfil those conditions.

All people desire peace and all seek it, but in too many cases it is sought in vain. Who can estimate the terrible results of the vain efforts to find this longed-for state?

The criminal seeks peace in seclusion but,

tho he may succeed in evading the penalty of the law, he can never escape his condemning conscience which persists in keeping alive the memory of his crime and stands as a sentinel forbidding the entrance of that peace which he so vainly seeks. The wicked long for peace, and seek it in the halls of revelry and sin. They try to forget their longings by engaging in worldly gaiety and attempt to drown them with the poisonous draught of the wine-cup. But how vain these efforts, for they are only adding fuel to the yearnings that have been kindled within their souls.

This vanity would be awful under any circumstances, but it is all the more awful on account of its needlessness. Would these vain seekers after peace but turn to the Book of books and there find light. Would they but go to Isaiah who, in his confidence in God, exclaimed, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."

There is the secret, it is the mind which is stayed on God that enjoys peace;—the mind whose faith and hope and love are all centered in the Father.

"You say, 'We cannot have peace if that is the price we must pay for it. It is too much. We cannot fulfil those conditions.'"

Look at it more closely and see if you are not mistaken. Is it much to put your faith in one who has all power in heaven and on earth? One who can save to the uttermost and give you victory over every enemy, however powerful? Is it much to center your hopes in Him who has put within you the hope of an eternal life? Is it much to give your love to him who so loved you that he gave his only begotten Son to be offered as a sacrifice for your sins? This is indeed a small price to pay for peace. A small price indeed for that without which life on earth is a burden but with which it is a foretaste of heaven.

Why do we stay our minds on the things of earth which take wings and fly away when we may rest securely within the Rock of Ages? Will we not stay our minds upon God? Our wills submissive to His will,—our intellects directed by His wisdom,—our emotions responding to His love, His beauty, His glory? This done, the question of peace will be forever solved for us. Then we will see why Paul was so content with the shackles of bondage upon his wrists. Then we will know why Stephen so calmly fell asleep while a prayer in behalf of his murderers was still upon his lips. Then we will understand why Jesus always bore that peaceful countenance, for we will have received the legacy that he left us when he said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."

Now Isaiah not only tells us the conditions upon which we may enjoy peace, but he also tells us why those conditions will bring peace.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." The mind that is stayed on God will trust in him, and where there is perfect trust there must be peace. Fear,